

REMARKS

Claims 3-5, 8-10 and 13-15 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, and 18 have been canceled. Claim 17 is now canceled by this amendment without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 8, and 13 are independent.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Fukuoka (USP 6,104,430). Applicant has cancelled claim 17 in this Reply. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been rendered moot, and Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 3-5, 8-10 and 13-15 are rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,744,920. Concurrently with this Reply, Applicant has filed a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,744,920. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Terminal Disclaimer